



## MARCH 1999 NEWSLETTER

### SVBC OFFICERS

President:	
Vice-President: Bob McGovern-Waite	828-0954
Secretary: Eric Aschenbach	574-2798
Treasurer: Marcia Lamphier	289-6712

### NEW BEGINNINGS

Back a couple of months ago I wrote my first letter as the Vice-President of the bike club. Now, I didn't make a mistake. I did say Vice-President. Which brings me to the point of this letter. The club elections are coming up very shortly. With David Knicely abandoning us the way he did, (just up and left with nary a thought, now I ask you!) the club has been operating under the woefully inadequate guidance of the inept Vice-President. I can say that because I know just how inept. Anyway, we need a President. We also need the other officers; however, those posts are currently filled and there is only one of them not holding up their end of the bargain (see comments about Vice-President above). Marcia has done a super job as Treasurer and Eric is

probably one of the top Secretaries the club has seen. (Who am I leaving out, you may ask?) I personally would like to see them continue in their posts if they are willing. There are others who help keep the club running. Neups keeps us all together with the newsletter (when the above mentioned Vice-President gets him the letter on time), Bill Taylor is a great ride leader, (he even got me out on some of the back roads on Sunday) and of course, Art works his magic with the Century every year. I'd also like to welcome Len as the Bicycle Advocacy coordinator.

So you see, we have people doing a lot of things for the bike club and you. We just need someone to step up to the plate and take on the role of President. We

need someone willing to fill David's shoes. But enough clichés. I know the political climate is a little rough right now. However, I can assure you that if a special prosecutor isn't appointed to investigate my past, ya'll are home free.

So please, think about it. Who would you like to see be the President of the club? Any ideas? If you know of someone who would be willing, or if you are willing, please call one of the club officers (at least one of the ones other than the first one listed on the front of the newsletter) and let them know. Remember, it's not what your bike club can do for you, it's what you can do.... Oh, that's right, no more clichés.

BMW

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**March 8**      **7:00pm**      Monthly meeting at the Valley Wellness Center.

### JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The agenda for January's meeting was rather limited. In old business, the Treasurer reported a balance of \$2677.11 in the club's coffers. New business included a request for club members to send in their total mileage for 1998. Since Harrisonburg is the fifth fastest growing city in Virginia, we hope that by compiling the mileage it may reveal to city and county planners how important bicycles are for transportation

and recreation. Furthermore, how important it is to incorporate bicycle access and facilities into development plans for the area.

If you would like to see an expanded meeting agenda, please bring your topics and ideas to future meetings.

Eric

## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The RMH Wellness Pavilion once again played host to our monthly meeting. We received a letter of thanks from VDOT for our "dedicated service" at cleaning up the section of state roadway that we adopted for the past two years. We will probably choose another section of road for the next two year term. Neups will be contacting VDOT soon to determine what sections are available. We would like to select a section that more of us typically ride along, so if you know of any available roads please contact Neups.

We also discussed some of the new publications promoting bicycling in Virginia. The most notable was the new brochure put out by VDOT that breaks the state into sections and describes cycling opportunities available for that area. It might be a great reference if you are traveling within the Commonwealth and are seeking some new bike terrain. The club only received one copy of the magazine, but I am working on getting some additional copies for our members.

We are currently evaluating the club's insurance policy and gathering information on other providers. We may change providers if we feel we can procure a better contract. There was some discussion as to what to do, if anything, with the budget surplus in the club's treasury (no, we are not going to 'fix' Social Security). Some of the reasons we have a slight surplus is that the

cost associated with printing of the newsletter is partially donated at this time, some of the members receive the newsletter electronically via email thus decreasing postage costs, our present insurance rate is less than our previous provider, and the Century Ride has returned some money in recent years. One idea for the use of the surplus was to start a bike helmet program for area youth. Another idea was to purchase a bike travel case for the club and rent it to members. A third idea was to become more involved with the 'Police Bike Rodeo' (this may be a good idea for other reasons!?). If you have any ideas, please bring them to a future meeting or forward them to one of the club officers.

On the Advocacy front, Len has been working hard to promote cycling in the area. He has been engaging in discussion with City and University officials that deal with bicycling issues. He and Neups are also working on revising the Club's website, and Len is attempting to get it linked to local and regional websites.

The Treasurer's Report was \$2702.07 for this month. Elections are coming up, and ballots should be included in this issue of the newsletter. Please remember to vote!

Eric

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carl Droms  
Steven Hostetler

Linville  
Harrisonburg

## WELCOME BACK RETURNING MEMBERS

Marcia Lamphier & Larry Grossman  
The Wettstones

McGaheysville  
Pleasant Valley

*Thanks to all the above for your continued support of the Club.*

Mark's Bike Shop, Blue Ridge CycleWorks, and Mole Hill Bikes  
all contribute to the cost of the monthly newsletters.

Please support these local shops.

(Also underwritten by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company)

## SVBC ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

<u>Century</u>	Art Fovargue	433-9247	<u>Newsletter</u>	Neups	434-1878
<u>Rides</u>	Bill Taylor	433-7154	<u>Time Trial</u>	needed	
	<u>Advocacy</u>	Len VanWyk	432-0138		
	<b>Web page</b>	<b><a href="http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/svbc/">http://www.math.jmu.edu/~vanwyk/svbc/</a></b>			

## WINTER SURFING

Is it winter, spring, early summer? I'm not sure at all any more. I was just getting back into the swing of commuting to work on my bike when the cold hits us again. I'm sorry, but my knees can only take so much freezing. Hopefully it won't be long before I'm back at it.

If you've looked closely, you'll see above that the SVBC web page has been changed. Len has graciously

agreed to put a little more time and talent into it than I could. You'll see some more of what we are about, contact names and numbers, and links to other sites of interest. Click on over to our new page and let Len know what you think.

Neups

## ADVOCACY

On the JMU campus, it appears the winds of change are starting to blow. After contacting the SGA Grounds Committee Chair, Bryan Watts, and attempting to convince him of the merits of a bicycle-friendly campus, an article appeared in The Breeze on February 1 entitled "Peddling a Plan for Change -- SGA lobbies for addition of bicycle paths on campus". This article contained the case for bicycle improvements on campus, and made noises about the need for cooperation with the City of Harrisonburg.

I also had discussions with Don Komara, Resident Engineer at VDOT, about the viability of bike lanes on Bluestone Drive as well as reducing the speed limit to something below the current 25 mph. (Bluestone Drive is maintained by VDOT.) It was a hard sell on the latter, but I sent him a letter requesting the requisite study (there's always a state study) and giving a list of some colleges and universities in the state which have a speed limit of 15 mph. (He wasn't aware that such institutions existed.) In general, he seemed receptive to bicycle improvements on campus.

On the City front, I gave brief presentations at the January 1 and February 10 Planning Commission meetings regarding the Harrisonburg Rockingham Bicycle Plan (HRBP). During the first of these meetings, in which I encouraged review and implementation of the HRBP, I noticed that many members of the current commission weren't aware of the existence of the plan, but that all seemed to like what they heard. At the second of the meetings, before which they had time to read the plan, it appeared they were fairly serious about incorporating some specifics into the next Capital Improvement Plan; the Commission will hammer something out at their March workshop.

One interesting piece of information I gathered is that the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department is applying for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's "Virginia Recreational Trails Fund Program" to build trails (for pedestrians and bicyclists) linking Hillandale Park, Westover Park, and Thomas Harrison Middle School. This is great news for middle school kids, who currently have no safe avenue for riding to school. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for letters of endorsement to increase the probability of getting funding for this project. Please call Paula Gucker at 433-9168 to get information about supporting this improvement.

Len VanWyk  
Advocacy Coordinator

## TIDBITS

The 1999 Virginia Bicycle Guide is now being distributed by VDOT. You can obtain one by contacting Susan Simmers at 1-800-835-1213 or e-mailing her at [vabiking@vdot.state.va.us](mailto:vabiking@vdot.state.va.us).

## CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Two bike roof racks. A bit aged with a bit of iron oxide, but still functional for that second car, or where cosmetics don't matter.

#1 - Barrecrafters Spoke Tote (BR-20) - Was last on a '72 Capri (was necessary for structural integrity of auto). Connects to rain gutters (remember those?).

#2 - Convert-A-Porter (No. 1002) - Was last on a '76 Datsun hatchback. Connected to an inverted rain gutter (designed to keep water on road from splashing your roof - never caught on).

Both carry two bicycles. Best offer or for-the-taking (before I'm forced to throw 'em out). Call Art Fovargue at 433-9247.

FOR SALE: Serotta Frame, 60LCM with a 60cm top tube. Titanium. Kestral fork. Call Marc at 269-8903 to work out a price.

FOR SALE: GT Pro Freestyle Tour, Cro-Mo frame, perfect condition, \$375 to start. Call 248-5810.

FOR RENT: Tricosports bike case/carrier. Good for transporting your bike on plane, train, or bus anywhere in the world. Contact Dick Wettstone at 434-9430 (work) or 433-4884 (home).

FOR SALE: Trek 501 bicycle. Excellent condition. \$100. Call Waltine Begoon at 828-6602.

## CHILI RIDE

While the weather was not quite seasonal for early February, the lack of painfully cold conditions was not missed. In fact, I think the majority of the eight participants enjoyed the sunny skies and milder temperature. Since the weather was lacking a miserable punch, I selected a rolling (O.K., hilly) route on gravel and paved roads to the northwest of Harrisonburg. We got as far west as the base of Little North Mountain, then rolled through Singers Glen, and back towards town for an approximately 25 mile trek.

The highlights of the ride included one flat tire, too many close calls with dogs, sheep farms with numerous black and white lambs, one broken chain, and some hungry horses.

The size of the group grew for the potluck after the ride. We feasted on vegetarian chili, breads, cheeses, rice medley, salad, hot cider, ice cream, and cheesecake. Stories and laughter were required to help digest the vast quantities of food consumed. Thanks to everyone that attended this second annual event.

Eric

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- SUNDAYS 10:30am. Winter Road Rides. Dan Finseth will be leading rides from his house in Mt. Crawford, weather permitting. Call him for more information at 438-8063.**
- SUNDAYS 12 noon. Winter Training Rides. This winter, we bring back a regular series of rides for those of you who will not let a little bad weather interrupt your cycling enjoyment. We will be meeting on a weekly basis for rides of one to two hours in length - weather to dictate the distance. Ride leaders will include Marcia, Bill, and Marquess. First ride will be on January 3rd and the series will be continued through March. Major snowfall means cancellation of ride and x-country skiing instead. Call Bill at 433-7154, or other ride leaders for location and other details. Shake off that winter feeling of blah and join us.**
- April 17 Great Cookie Bike Rally. Harwood, MD. 15-, 30-, and 50-mile options. Call 1-888-226-7433, or e-mail [info@cyclexmd.org](mailto:info@cyclexmd.org) for more information.
- April 24 Tar Wheel Century. Flat! Contact David Copley at 252-330-4514 for more information.
- May 2-4 Virginia's first GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON GREENWAYS and TRAILS. Workshops, field trips, and exhibits. Roanoke. Call 804-798-0045 or e-mail [VAGwayConf@aol.com](mailto:VAGwayConf@aol.com) for more information.
- May 15 Tour De Chesapeake. Call 757-229-0507, or e-mail [bikeva@bikevirginia.org](mailto:bikeva@bikevirginia.org) for more information.

- May 15-16 Clean Air Challenge. Little Rock to Hot Springs and back, AR. Call 1-800-880-5864 for more information.
- June 4-7 LAB National Rally South. Louisville, KY.
- June 9-13 The Penn Jersey Jaunt. Loops the Delaware Water Gap. Optional raft/canoe trip. Call 410-356-4644 or e-mail bikeknable@aol.com for more information.
- June 13 Knotts Island Century Rides. Three ride lengths. Century includes a ferry ride. Post-ride cookout. Contact Tom Adler at 757-482-5587 for more information.
- June 18-21 LAB National Rally North. Saratoga Springs, NY.
- June 25-30 Bike Virginia James River Odyssey. Richmond, Franklin, Hampton, and Williamsburg. Call 757-229-0507, or e-mail bikeva@bikevirginia.org for more information.
- July 1-5 RiverRide in the Hudson Valley. Supports the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Call Norman Fulton at 914-245-7174 for more information.
- July 3-10 Cascade Peaks. Starts and ends in Redmond, WA. An Adventure Cycling tour. Call 1-800-755-2453 or e-mail tours@adv-cycling.org for more information.
- July 17-23 Lighthouse Tour. Starts in Bar Harbor, ME. Call 207-743-9018 or e-mail Moosa@Megalink.net for more information.
- July 17-25 The Great Northern Crossing of Pedal Pennsylvania. Erie to Philadelphia. Call 215-561-9679 or e-mail bobi@pedal-pa.com for more information.
- July 23-25 Chowan Weekend Getaway. Murfreesboro, NC. Contact Fran Adams at 757-467-2775 for more information.
- July 23-26 LAB National Rally. California wine country.
- July 24-30 Cycle Across Maryland XI. Western Maryland. Call 1-888-226-7433 or visit their web site at <http://cyclexmd.org> for more information.
- July 25-31 Bon Ton Roulet. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual. Seven days, 400 miles through the Finger Lakes Region of central New York. Call 607-756-2893 for more information.
- July 25-31 MOOSA Tour. Starts in Skowhegan, ME. Call 207-743-9018 or e-mail Moosa@Megalink.net for more information.

## 1998 MILEAGES



Marcia Lamphier	6,533	David Knicely	2,888
Neups	5,554	Ellen Painter	2,670
Bill Painter	4,015	Hank Schiefer	2,103
Mark Eckroth	3,356	Larry Grossman	1,750
Mahlon Webb	3,202	Alice Webb	1,580

If you have your 1998 total, call, e-mail, or fax Neups to have it listed.

## DUES

Remember to pay your dues when the date on your mailing label is either highlighted or marked through. The newsletter deadline is the third Monday of each month, so have your check in before then.

## MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING MARCH/April

**Andrew Jones Family**

**Art Fovargue Family**

**Debbie Tuler**

**Scott Ripley Family**

Mark Eckroth

Dary Erwin

## FIVE COMEBACKS TO “BIKES DON’T PAY THE GAS TAX”

By Noel Weyrich, Director of State and Local Advocacy, League of American Bicyclists

Sooner or later, every bicycle advocate hears it: “Why should cyclists get any special consideration in road design? They don’t pay the gas tax!”

Of all the commonly held misperceptions about cycling, the idea that “bikes don’t pay their way” is probably the most destructive, because it paints the cycling public as a hoard of freeloaders who are lucky not to be banned from the highways altogether. It may well be the source of all that anger manifest in motorists who harass us with profanities or deliberately buzz by too close for comfort. It is a myth nurtured by highway officials seeking a handy rationalization for not doing more for us. And I have personally heard it muttered in our own ranks, as a cause for resigning ourselves to the bottom of the transportation pecking order!

Well, as Mark Twain was fond of saying, “It’s not what we don’t know that gets us in trouble. It’s what we know for sure that just ain’t so!”

A closer look at the facts, of course, shows that it is motorists who are not pulling their weight in terms of infrastructure carrying costs.

Cyclists, by contrast, probably pay more than their fair share, when you consider all forms of taxation and add in our negligible contribution to road wear and tear.

So, next time you’re accused of being a “highway freeloader”, here are five snappy retorts to knock ‘em back on their heels and make ‘em think twice before ever raising the issue again with anyone:

1. Cyclists do pay the gas tax. Although many cyclists lead “car-free” lives, the vast majority of cyclists own automobiles and pay all the corresponding state and federal gasoline taxes that contribute to road building and maintenance. Just because we pay these taxes through fuel consumption doesn’t mean we’re “voting” for automotive supremacy. People pay these taxes, not their automobiles, and a significant portion of these people are cyclists as well as motorists. They pay the tax to ensure safe roads for everyone.
2. Accommodating cyclists benefits motorists. Motorists are happiest when they can pass slower moving cyclists with ease. Substandard lanes and inadequate shoulder widths create dangers and frustrations for cyclists and motorists alike, while good design for bikes always improves traffic flow for motorists.
3. Most so-called bicycle improvements contribute greatly to overall highway safety. Wide right lanes and paved shoulders provide vital recovery areas for motorists, especially late at night when inebriated, tired or otherwise impaired drivers cause so many accidents. The growing numbers of elderly drivers need wide right lanes and paved shoulders to compensate for problems in depth perception that can accompany advancing age. A road made safe for cyclists is safe for everyone.
4. The liquid fuels tax does not even begin to pay for the entire cost of driving. It is commonly estimated that gasoline would be priced between \$4.50 and \$7.50 per gallon in order for a fuel tax to recover what the automobile costs society. This includes the real maintenance costs of highways, law enforcement costs, emergency services, motor oil pollution in storm water runoff and dozens of other buried costs. More importantly, bicycles do not cause any of the bridge and road surface deterioration brought on by motor vehicles in general and overloaded trucks in particular.
5. The public right-of-way is not the private preserve of any one group.

Remember, most public rights-of-way, especially in the East, predate the automobile. In any event, safe passage on a public right-of-way is not the exclusive privilege of motor vehicles. Accordingly, design decisions should accommodate all transportation modes legally entitled to use a given road. Under a variety of conditions, to varying degrees, wide right lanes, paved shoulders or bike lanes can help accomplish this socially equitable objective. Who pays or doesn’t pay hardly enters into it.

The gas tax argument is a red herring, one that’s long overdue for the file knife

REMEMBER that the Newsletter is available for delivery via e-mail, fax, or regular mail. The same can be said for articles submitted for the Newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second to last Monday of the month. Just e-mail to Neups at [neups@shentel.net](mailto:neups@shentel.net) or fax articles to 564-9505. You may use the Club’s P.O. Box 1014 for regular mail. Thanks.